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In the Spring of 1631 Robert Rich, the Second Earl of Warwick in the name of the Council of New England, issued a charter to an association of Puritans headed by William Fiennes, First Viscount Saye and Sele; Robert Greville, the Second Baron Brooke; John Pym and others. John Winthrop Jr. was appointed to be the first governor.

Four years later in 1635 Winthrop's agents were able to recruit about two hundred immigrants, including many unmarried women to come to America to make homes for the men that were already there. Many of the women were willing to work but could not find any work in England. After the women arrived some were chosen to be brides by the colonists, who then had to give the Company payment for the woman's trip in order to marry her. Those who did not meet a husband became indentured servants for a period of seven years to repay the Company for their passage. After that they were free. History records many of such ships coming to the New World as 'The Bride Ships.'

Those recruited by Winthrop's men sailed for America on the 'Abigail' and 'Defence'. They were bound for the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

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Many of the immigrants booked passage under an assumed name. Some were smuggled aboard only hours ahead of the King's officers. Later in the year two smaller vessels, the 'Batcheler' and 'True Love' brought fourteen passengers including Lion Gardiner and his wife Mary Willemsen Deurcant. Only three other passengers on the manifest, including one woman are named.

Lion Gardiner had been a military engineer in the service of Frederick Henry, the Prince of Orange, in the Netherlands. Frederick Henry was the son of 'William the Silent', who was the main leader of the Dutch revolt against the Spanish that set-off the Eighty Years' War. As a minor prince, Frederick allied himself with other royals and the Puritans to maintain control during the struggle for independence from Spain. Frederick paid very well and Lion Gardiner had no qualms about being a mercenary on the payroll of the Dutch. With Lion's help Frederick became famous as a master of siegecraft. Lion and Mary left Rotterdam bound for London. There, as the pale streaks of dawn lighted the east, equipment, supplies, livestock, including cows, horses, goats and poultry were loaded. Then passengers and the new crew came aboard. Mary, standing on the deck shivered from the morning's cold.

Her pale face was rimmed by a blue cloth tied about her head. At daybreak the captain lifted anchor and broke-out the sails. A gentle wind was blowing from the west that morning as 'True Love' slowly travelled down the Thames, past Margate and Ramsgate, through the Strait of Dover, into the English Channel and west to America....

The passengers included Puritan preachers, farmers, fishermen, craftsmen and many indentured servants. Lion Gardiner was appointed to construct and command a fort at the mouth of the Connecticut River which was later named Saybrook. Lion at twenty-eight was an imposing figure of a man. He was handsome, ambitious and vain. He was a tall man, almost six-feet four inches. He walked with a swagger and he was almost impossible to intimidate. That was another good reason for his selection to build and command the fort in the New World. The two vessels, the 'Abigail' and 'Defence' arrived at Boston Harbor in mid-November. That day the dawn seemed reluctant to break through the dismal skies over Boston. By ten o'clock the grey clouds had given way to rain. The crossing of the Atlantic had taken two months.

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Thomas Hurlbut, believed born in 1610 first appears in a letter written by Lion Gardiner. In it he tells how Hurlbut was wounded during an attack by Pequot Indians in 1637.

".....then Robert Chapman and Thomas Hurlbut, being sentinels, called to me saying there came a number of Indians out of the other side of the marsh. Thomas Rumble and Arthur Branch threw down their guns and ran away. The Indians shot the two of them that were hiding in the reeds. We retreating and exchanging shots, so that Thomas was shot by an arrow almost through the thigh. John Spenser in the back into his kidneys, myself into the thigh, two more shot dead. But in our retreat I kept Hurlbut and Spenser before us we defending ourselves with our naked swords, or else they had taken us all alive."

The Pequot tribe was of the Eastern Algonquin stock. under their Chief, Sassacus, they had by 1630 extended their territory to the Connecticut River. They had numerous quarrels with the English who settled in their valley. In 1637 they murdered John Oldham, an English trader. The English under John Mason and John Underhill attacked their stronghold on the Pequot River and destroyed five hundred Indians. Those remaining fled in small groups.

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One party went to Long Island, and a second fled into the interior. A third, led by Sassacus was intercepted near Fairfield, Connecticut; here almost the entire party was killed or captured. The captives became slaves to the colonists or were sold into the West Indies. A few, including Sassacus, who managed to escape the English were put to death by the Mohawk.

It can be assumed that since Thomas Hurlbut was a member of the garrison under the command of Lion Gardiner, that he arrived on the same ship as Gardiner. There were ten unnamed men on the ship with Gardiner and about twenty men in the fort. It is just as probable that Thomas Hurlbut came from one of the settlements up the river from the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

There were many reasons men travelled from England to America under an alias, including religious persecution. Thomas Hurlbut was from Chippenham Parish, Wiltshire, England. For several years prior to 1635 there had been disturbances or 'risings' in Wiltshire and neighboring counties. Many of the inhabitants fled from arrest.

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Since the name of Thomas Hurlbut does not appear on any list of passengers, it is possible he immigrated using an alias. It is just as possible he is one of the unnamed passengers who arrived with the Gardiner's. The Gardiner's later, were among the founders of the first English settlement in what became the State of New York on Long Island. He died in East Hampton, New York in 1663 at the age of sixty four. Mary died two years earlier.

Thomas Hurlbut was the ancestor of descendants who spell the name Hurlburt, Hulbert, Hurlbunt, etc. A theory is that Thomas escaped from England as there may have been a warrant for his arrest. As mentioned, rioting, known as 'risings' were prevalent at that time in various shires of England and some members of religious groups such as the Puritans and Catholics were being imprisoned.

William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, who was later beheaded in 1645 for supporting King Charles I during the English civil war, opposed all of the Protestants and issued warrants for the arrest of many. In that day and age, religion was everything. One took an oath to serve the king as the head of the Anglican Church of England or you faced the unpleasant consequences.

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Riots throughout the shires were caused by high unemployment and actions of the Stuart Kings, especially Charles I who, too was subsequently beheaded. Charles I was King of England, Scotland and Ireland from March 1625 until his execution in 1649. He was engaged in a struggle for power with the English Parliament under the dictatorship of Oliver Cromwell. Charles was an advocate of the Divine Right of Kings. He lost that struggle and his head to the executioner. Once his head was off, he went into the future as 'Charles the Martyr.' There were excessive taxes called tonnage and poundage, fines for breaches of the forest lands and statutes against enclosures. There were also new taxes called 'Ship's Money' levied against inland cities and towns. It was during the reign of Charles I that the great migration of Protestants and some Catholics to America took place to lay the foundations of an English empire in the New World. It is interesting to note that the great tide of migration virtually came to a halt when religious persecution in England ceased about 1640. King Charles could only have been happy to be rid of those 'pesky' folks.

Of some twenty-five thousand English who had settled in New England by 1640, it was estimated that two-thirds or more came from the counties of the south east and the Midlands. Accustomed there to large villages, they naturally took the notion of the township with them across the Atlantic. They sought a home where they could lead the religious life of their own choosing.

After the Pequot War of 1637, Thomas Hurlbut, who now was known in his community as Hurlburt, established a blacksmith business in Wethersfield, Connecticut, and became one of that community's first settlers. He became clerk of the local militia and the General Court Deputy. He served as a Grand Juror and became Constable in 1644. He acquired various tracts of land a few years later. In 1660 the town granted him Lot 39 on the east side of the Connecticut River. For his service in the Pequot Indian War the Assembly in 1671 voted him a 120 acre parcel of land. He died shortly after that.

Thomas Hurlburt married Sarah Ney in 1639 at Wethersfield, Connecticut. They had six children. This is the story of one of them.

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Joseph Hurlburt was born in 1646 in Wethersfield. He married Rebecca Brown. Their son, Joseph Jr. was born in 1677 in Woodbury, Connecticut on the Naugatuck River about twenty miles away from Wethersfield. He married Mary Castle in 1698. Joseph died in 1729 in Woodbury. Joseph and Mary Castle Hurlburt had seven sons. Their fourth son was Moses Hurlburt.

Moses Hurlburt was born in Woodbury, Connecticut in 1714. Moses married Rebecca, the daughter of Dr. Ebenezer and Martha Galpin Warner. Moses and Rebecca were married in June, 1741. They had eight children. Their third son, Moses Jr. was born in Woodbury in 1749. Moses Sr. was a few days short of forty-nine years of age at the time of his death. He became ill and wrote his will in the Winter of 1763. He was involved in several real estate transactions at the time and wrote the will perhaps to put his affairs in order.

In Roxbury Parish in the early Spring of 1771, Moses Jr. married Patience, a distant cousin. She was the daughter of Consider and Patience Hawley Hurlburt.

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Patience was from a family that joined the Church of England (Anglican). This is believed to be the reason that Moses Hurlburt Jr., her husband, sided with the British during the Revolutionary War. Moses and Patience inherited several tracts of land, sold some and settled in Arlington Township, Vermont. During the American war for independence, Arlington, Vermont was know as 'Tory Hollow.'

The term 'Tory' was used to signify those colonists who adhered to the policies of England, the mother country. They called themselves 'Loyalists.' Arlington, Vermont was a Church of England stronghold, and many of the citizens there wished to remain loyal to King George III. Outspoken loyalists however, were found and forced out of town, their land was confiscated and sold to raise money for the patriot cause.

In a sworn statement, British Captain Justus Sherwood stated that Moses Hurlburt gave information that was 'friendly' to Great Britain in 1776. The next year Moses joined the army of British General John Burgoyne and was at the battle of Hubbardton, Vermont in July, 1777.

After the battle Moses was sent by British General Simon Frasier "to discover the retreat of the rebel army." Sadly, General Frasier was mortally wounded in the abdomen and died at the British River fortifications, near Saratoga, New York on October 8. Moses never had a chance to report back to Frasier on his spying mission.

Moses, along with many of General Burgoyne's contingent of Hessians was captured by the colonial army at the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, on August 16, 1777, and was jailed there. Moses as a tory prisoner was tied with another captured tory, each pair tied to a horse. He was later paroled and given a pass to leave the area for one week. Two months later in October of 1777 his property was seized by the American army, including livestock, food, clothing, farm equipment, furniture and even their cooking pots.

Finding himself outnumbered and surrounded, General Burgoyne surrendered his retreating forces at Saratoga, New York on October 17 to American militia troops under the joint command of General Horatio Gates and Major General Benedict Arnold. This battle of Saratoga was the first great victory of the war.

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Moses Hurlburt then broke his parole and fled to Canada where he joined Major Roger's Rangers. While he was with the Ranger's he was sent on 'secret service' as a spy. Roger's Rangers was an independent company of loyal colonials attached to the British Army during the Seven Years War. In the colonies it was called the French and Indian War. It lasted until 1763. The unit was informally trained by Major Robert Rogers as a rapidly deployable light infantry force used for reconnaissance, spying and special operations. The British valued them highly for gathering intelligence about the enemy. The Rangers operated primarily in the Lake George and Lake Champlain regions of New York. At the outbreak of the American revolution at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, former Rangers were among the 'Minutemen' firing at the British. Later Rogers offered his help to the commander of the colonial army, General George Washington. Washington refused, fearing that Rogers was a spy because Rogers had just returned from a long stay in England. Infuriated by the rejection, Rogers joined the British, where he formed the Queen's Rangers in 1776 and later the King's Rangers.

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Over a year later in March 1780 Moses Hurlburt was listed as a member of Samuel Adam's company of Loyalists. By 1782 Moses and his family had fled the colonies and moved to St. John's on the Rideau River in Ontario, Canada. On March 3, 1788 Captain Sherwood stated that Moses Hurlburt was at Oswegatchi (present day Prescott) on the St. Lawrence River in Ontario, Canada and his wife, Patience was near death. It is believed that Patience died that year, 1788 and Moses married a second time, because census records for 1796, 1806 and 1813 show Moses Hurlburt with a wife. Moses is believed to have died after 1813 since he is not listed in the 1823 census.

Heman Hurlburt, first child of Moses and Patience Hurlburt was born February 20, 1773 in Arlington, Vermont. Heman was twelve years old in 1785 when his parents settled in a tent in Augusta Township, Ontario, Canada. Records were left telling of the "hungry summer" of 1789 when famine came to the area.

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Those who survived, it was written : " plucked the leaves from the birch trees, broke the buds off the basswood and stripped the bark from the elm trees." They boiled them in water or milk. The starving settlers slowly began to recover their strength when they added berries and grains to the boiled milk. Cakes were made of pounded corn when it was ripe and baked on boards before open fires. When the famine ended "It was a season of luscious festivity and a day of gladness to many a hungry family."

Heman Hurlburt married Hannah Mosier (Mosher). She was the daughter of Nicholas Mosher and Sarah Allen. Heman and Hannah were married about 1798. It was at that time when they purchased two hundred acres of a wild farm covered with forest trees. They cleared and cultivated the land in Augusta Township, Ontario, Canada. There they raised sixteen children. All had competent education ; four sons passed a collegiate course, six were ministers of the gospel and several sons and daughters were useful in the missions of the church. On March 3, 1808, their son Thomas Hurlburt was born near Prescott, Ontario.

Thomas Hurlburt became a Methodist minister and a missionary among the Indians. He was ordained in 1835 at the age of twenty-seven. Family legend has it that his calling to Indian work came to him as he was working at home on the farm. He had a vision of an Indian standing beside him. After that apparition he left the farm at the age of twenty and became a teacher at the Indian school at Muncey, Ontario, in 1828.

Rev. Hurlburt spent forty-five years among the Indian tribes travelling from Canada to southwest of the Mississippi River into Texas and back to Canada. During his years as a missionary he became proficient in studying the various tribes and learning the Ojibwa language of the Chippewa's. Upon returning to Canada he encountered the Cree tribes of the northern plains and taught himself to preach in the Cree language. It is said that he found an old printing press and a supply of paper in Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. He repaired the press and set his own type. In one year he printed a thousand copies of St. John's Gospel and two thousand copies of three epistles. He distributed them to the Cree encampments in the far north and west as far as the Rocky Mountains.

At the age of sixty-five he travelled ten miles on snow-shoes in winter to preach three times every Sunday.

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It was in 1832, three years before his ordination as a Methodist minister, that Rev. Thomas Hurlburt married Almira Betsey Adams. She was born Betsey Almira on October 15, 1815 in Fredricksburg, Upper Canada, now known as Ontario. They were married at Muncey Mission, Ontario on the Thames River about twenty miles from London, Ontario. Thomas was twenty-four his bride Betsey was seventeen. They had ten children born between 1833 and 1858.

In 1844 the growing Hurlburt family was sent to the Indian Territory now called Kansas and Oklahoma. They travelled by boat from Ontario, Canada to Chicago via the Great Lakes. In Chicago they boarded west-bound coaches to Ottawa, Illinois on the Illinois River. At Ottawa they continued south by boat or barge on the Illinois River to where it met the Mississippi, thence to St. Louis, Missouri.

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Another vessel on the Missouri River took them across the State of Missouri to Westport Landing, now a part of greater Kansas City. It was only a few days travel west to where the Buffalo were still plentiful on the rolling prairie. The area was home to the Kaw and Kansas Indian tribes. Rev. Hurlburt reported that every summer those tribes went on Buffalo hunts and had conflicts with the wilder tribes of the plains like the Sioux, Kiowa, Shoshone and the fierce Pawnee. He wrote : "The men generally had the hair cut from their heads, except a small portion about the crown, which was braided and had feathers stuck in it making it conspicuous, and which said more plainly than words : "take it if you can."

The Hurlburt family eventually returned to Canada where Betsey died just before Christmas, on December 21, 1863. She died in Toronto at the age of only forty-seven. Her tenth child, Franklin Thomas was only five years old.

Ten years later Rev. Thomas Hurlburt fell on the ice at his then home, a place called Little Current, and died, probably of a brain concussion, on April 14, 1873. He was buried on Manitoulin Island in Lake Huron in Ontario, Canada.

George Roy Hurlburt was the great grandson of Rev. Thomas Hurlburt. This is an excerpt of what he wrote in 1972 after many years of dedicated research:..."He spent his life teaching and preaching to the Indians. At the time of his death he was acknowledged as a foremost authority on Indian languages. His interests included geology, botany, astronomy, languages (including Hebrew), farming and fishing. He was an editor, printer, carpenter, teacher, lecturer and defender of the Indian interests. He would spend the day sawing lumber by hand to build a meeting house for the church; the evening teaching the Indians and the nights studying and writing on the above subjects. His first child, John Quincy Adams, wrote that his father prepared a dictionary of the Indian language, the original of which is now in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. He sent all of his children to school, either to Coburg College or to schools in Toronto. Two of his daughters attended schools in Europe. His descendants included bankers, musicians, artists, educators, engineers and attorneys.

Perhaps excerpts from some of his letters will convey a better impression of the man: Of the Muncey Mission, Thomas Hurlburt writes, " April 15th I took charge of this mission; lived the first year in a bark shanty, the next in an Indian house, and during the next built with my own hands between times and at night, the first mission house. The fifteen members increased to eighty-five." "The Burford Camp meeting was a season of great blessing; many conversions, eight sons of the forest. When the meeting closed many clung to the sacred spot unwilling to leave." Writing from Manitoulin Island, August 2, 1838, he tells of leaving Toronto July 7th and Sarnia, across the St. Clair River from Port Huron, Michigan on the 13th, * * * wife and two children in a bark conoe, with provisions for a year- "a very heavy load"- without the two and one-half barrels of flour sent from Toronto, which had to be left behind." He wrote April 9th, 1838, "My wife had rather go with me across the Rocky Mountains and live in a bark wigwam than in a city full of kind friends without me."

His wife Betsey wrote to her father, Rev. Ezra Adams, December 20, 1840: "This is the Holy Sabbath evening, and with overflowing heart I must tell of our prosperity * * * I do not lament my situation, never did, never expect to, although I highly prize and often sigh for civilized society. Pray for us."